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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/05/2012 TAGS: KCFE NATO PARM PREL BE

SUBJECT: CFE EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS:

BELGIANS WELCOME U.S. POINTS, STILL FORMULATING THEIR OWN

REF: SECSTATE 77371

(C) Senior Belgian MFA officials received reftel points with interest, noting that the MFA was continuing to formulate the Belgian position prior to the June 7 meeting. In general, our contacts have reiterated Minister De Gucht's belief that it was important to push back when the Russians were wrong (as they were on the CFE issue), and to continue working with Moscow whenever possible. The Belgians agreed that alliance unity remained vital to achieving success on this issue, and welcomed the "practical suggestions" that the U.S. offered in reftel. In doing so, the alliance will be able to "recapture part of the initiative." Fox

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